

Family Movie Night: Walking with St. Mary Magdalene

A 30-Minute Viewing & Discussion Guide for Parents

Note to Parents: St. Mary Magdalene was chosen by Jesus to be the "Apostle to the Apostles"—the very first person to share the good news of His Resurrection! This quick guide will help you and your children discover her incredible story and talk about how to live out her holy virtues in your own home.

Part 1: Set the Stage (5 Minutes)

Before hitting play, gather your kids and ask these quick questions to get them thinking:

- **Who is your best friend?** What makes them a good friend?
- **Have you ever had exciting news** that you just couldn't wait to share with someone?
- **Parent Primer:** Tell your kids, *"Today we are watching a story about one of Jesus' best friends, Mary Magdalene. Jesus gave her a very special job. While we watch, I want you to look for three things: a red egg, Jesus, and a very powerful Emperor!"*

Part 2: Watch Together (10-15 Minutes)

Play the animation.

This video contains brief scenes involving demons. Parental guidance is recommended. The content is most suitable for elementary school-aged children and older. If your children are younger, feel free to pause at key moments (like when Mary is at the cross, or when she meets the Emperor) to briefly explain what is happening so they can follow along with the emotional beats of the story.

Part 3: Family Discussion (10 Minutes)

Use these adapted virtue questions to guide a short conversation. You don't need to ask all six; pick the two or three that you think will resonate most with your children's current ages and experiences!

Courage (Being Brave)

- **The Story:** Mary had to stand in front of crowds and a scary Emperor to tell the truth.
- **Ask Your Child:** Was there a time you felt scared to do the right thing, but you did it anyway? How does Jesus help us be brave?

Perseverance (Not Giving Up)

- **The Story:** Even when people laughed at her or told her to go away, Mary kept trying to share her message.
- **Ask Your Child:** Have you ever wanted to quit something because it was hard? How can we remember to keep trying like Mary did?

Faith (Trusting God)

- **The Story:** Mary brought a simple egg to the Emperor, completely trusting that God would give her the right words to say.

- **Ask Your Child:** Sometimes it is hard to trust God when we can't see Him. What does the miracle of the red egg teach us about trusting Jesus?

Faithfulness (Being a True Friend)

- **The Story:** When Jesus was on the cross and everyone else ran away, Mary stayed right by His side.
- **Ask Your Child:** What does it mean to be a loyal friend? How can we show Jesus that we love Him, even when we are having a sad or difficult day?

Obedience (Listening to God)

- **The Story:** Mary traveled very far to a new place just because Jesus asked His friends to share the Gospel everywhere.
- **Ask Your Child:** When we obey our parents or teachers, we are practicing obedience. What is one way you can practice listening and obeying this week?

Zeal (Excitement for Jesus)

- **The Story:** When Mary saw that Jesus was alive, she ran as fast as she could to tell the other disciples!
- **Ask Your Child:** Mary was so joyful about the Resurrection! Who is someone you want to share the happy news of Jesus with?

Part 4: Closing Prayer (Just a few minutes!)

Wrap up your family time by praying together.

Say together:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for the beautiful example of St. Mary Magdalene. Help us to be brave like her, to love You like she did, and to be excited to share Your love with everyone we meet. St. Mary Magdalene, pray for us! Amen."